



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

**Committee Bill No. 5790**

LCO No. 5164

\*05164HB05790TRA\*

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:  
(TRA)

***AN ACT CONCERNING COMPOSITE VEHICLES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 14-164c of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
3 *1, 2007*):

4 (c) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with  
5 chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section. Such  
6 regulations shall include provision for a periodic inspection of air  
7 pollution control equipment and compliance with or waiver of exhaust  
8 emission standards or compliance with or waiver of on-board  
9 diagnostic standards or other standards defined by the Commissioner  
10 of Environmental Protection and approved by the Administrator of the  
11 United States Environmental Protection Agency, compliance with or  
12 waiver of, air pollution control system integrity standards defined by  
13 the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and compliance with  
14 or waiver of purge system standards defined by the Commissioner of  
15 Environmental Protection. Such regulations may provide for an  
16 inspection procedure using an on-board diagnostic information system  
17 for all 1996 model year and newer motor vehicles. Such regulations

18 shall apply to all motor vehicles registered or which will be registered  
19 in this state except: (1) Vehicles having a gross weight of more than ten  
20 thousand pounds; (2) vehicles powered by electricity; (3) bicycles with  
21 motors attached; (4) motorcycles; (5) vehicles operating with a  
22 temporary registration; (6) vehicles manufactured twenty-five or more  
23 years ago; (7) new vehicles at the time of initial registration; (8)  
24 vehicles registered but not designed primarily for highway use; (9)  
25 farm vehicles, as defined in subsection (q) of section 14-49; (10) diesel-  
26 powered type II school buses; [or] (11) a vehicle operated by a licensed  
27 dealer or repairer either to or from a location of the purchase or sale of  
28 such vehicle or for the purpose of obtaining an official emissions or  
29 safety inspection; or (12) composite motor vehicles. On and after July 1,  
30 2002, such regulations shall exempt from the periodic inspection  
31 requirement any vehicle four or less model years of age, beginning  
32 with model year 2003 and the previous three model years, provided  
33 that such exemption shall lapse upon a finding by the Administrator of  
34 the United States Environmental Protection Agency or by the Secretary  
35 of the United States Department of Transportation that such  
36 exemption causes the state to violate applicable federal environmental  
37 or transportation planning requirements. Notwithstanding any  
38 provisions of this subsection, the commissioner may require an initial  
39 emissions inspection and compliance or waiver prior to registration of  
40 a new motor vehicle. If the Commissioner of Environmental Protection  
41 finds that it is necessary to inspect motor vehicles which are exempt  
42 under subdivision (1) or (4) of this subsection, or motor vehicles that  
43 are four or less model years of age in order to achieve compliance with  
44 federal law concerning emission reduction requirements, the  
45 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations, in accordance  
46 with the provisions of chapter 54, to require the inspection of  
47 motorcycles, designated motor vehicles having a gross weight of more  
48 than ten thousand pounds or motor vehicles four or less model years  
49 of age.

50 Sec. 2. Subdivision (46) of section 14-1 of the general statutes is  
51 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*

52 1, 2007):

53 [(46) "Modified antique motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle  
54 twenty years old or older which has been modified for safe road use,  
55 including, but not limited to, modifications to the drive train,  
56 suspension, braking system and safety or comfort apparatus.]

57 (46) "Street rod" means a motor vehicle that is a 1948 or older motor  
58 vehicle or a motor vehicle manufactured after 1948 to resemble a motor  
59 vehicle manufactured before 1949 which has been modified from the  
60 manufacturer's original design for safe road use, including, but not  
61 limited to, modifications to the drive train, body, suspension, braking  
62 system and safety or comfort apparatus constructed from nonoriginal  
63 materials. The model year and manufacture year listed on the  
64 registration of such motor vehicle is the model year that the body of  
65 such motor vehicle most closely resembles.

66 Sec. 3. Section 14-1 of the general statutes is amended by adding  
67 subdivisions (99) and (100) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

68 (NEW) (99) "Custom motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle twenty-  
69 five years old or older and of a model year after 1948, or a motor  
70 vehicle manufactured to resemble a motor vehicle twenty-five years  
71 old or older and of a model year after 1948 which has been modified  
72 for safe road use including, but not limited to, modifications to the  
73 drive train, body, suspension, braking system and safety or comfort  
74 apparatus constructed from nonoriginal materials. The model year and  
75 manufacture year listed on the registration of such motor vehicle is the  
76 model year that the body of such motor vehicle most closely  
77 resembles;

78 (NEW) (100) "Composite motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle  
79 composed or assembled from several parts of other motor vehicles  
80 such that the identification and body contours are so altered that the  
81 vehicle no longer bears the characteristics of any specific make or  
82 model of motor vehicle. The model year and manufacture year listed

83 on the registration of such motor vehicle is the model year that the  
84 vehicle was originally registered in the state.

85 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 14-16a of the general statutes is  
86 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
87 *1, 2007*):

88 (b) The following vehicles, upon transfer of ownership, shall be  
89 presented for inspection, as directed by the commissioner, at any  
90 Department of Motor Vehicles office or any official emissions  
91 inspection station authorized by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles  
92 to conduct such inspection: (1) All motor vehicles ten model years old  
93 or older which are registered in this state and which were originally  
94 used or designed as fire apparatus and which are of historical or  
95 special interest as determined by the commissioner, (2) all antique, rare  
96 or special interest motor vehicles, and (3) all [modified antique] street  
97 rod and custom motor vehicles. Any such vehicle shall be inspected to  
98 determine whether it is in good mechanical condition before  
99 registration can be issued to the new owner of such vehicle. The  
100 determination of the mechanical condition of a vehicle described in  
101 subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection shall be made by inspecting  
102 only the vehicle's original equipment and parts or the functional  
103 reproductions of the original equipment and parts. The mechanical  
104 condition of [modified antique] street rod and custom motor vehicles  
105 shall be determined by inspecting the original equipment and any  
106 functioning replacements of such equipment. If the commissioner  
107 authorizes the contractor that operates the system of official emissions  
108 inspection stations or other business or firm, except a licensee of the  
109 department, to conduct the safety inspections required by this  
110 subsection, the commissioner may authorize the contractor or other  
111 business or firm to charge a fee, not to exceed fifteen dollars, for each  
112 such inspection. The commissioner may authorize any motor vehicle  
113 dealer or repairer, licensed in accordance with section 14-52 and  
114 meeting qualifications established by the commissioner, to make  
115 repairs to any motor vehicle that has failed an initial safety inspection

116 and to certify to the commissioner that the motor vehicle is in  
117 compliance with the safety and equipment standards for registration.  
118 No such authorized dealer or repairer shall charge any additional fee  
119 to make such certification to the commissioner.

120 Sec. 5. Subsection (d) of section 14-62b of the general statutes is  
121 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
122 *1, 2007*):

123 (d) No provision of this section shall apply to the sale or purchase of  
124 used motor vehicle parts for use in antique, rare or special interest  
125 motor vehicles or [modified antique] street rod, custom or composite  
126 motor vehicles, as defined in section 14-1, as amended by this act.

127 Sec. 6. Section 14-103a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
128 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

129 Any composite motor vehicle [, composed or assembled from the  
130 several parts of other motor vehicles, or the identification and body  
131 contours of which are so altered that the vehicle no longer bears the  
132 characteristics of any specific make of motor vehicle, or] or any motor  
133 vehicle declared a total loss by any insurance carrier and subsequently  
134 rebuilt, shall be inspected by the commissioner to determine whether  
135 the vehicle is properly equipped, in good mechanical condition and in  
136 the possession of its lawful owner. Such vehicle shall be presented for  
137 inspection at any Department of Motor Vehicles office or any official  
138 emissions inspection station authorized by the Commissioner of Motor  
139 Vehicles to conduct such inspection. The commissioner may require  
140 any person presenting any such reassembled, altered or rebuilt vehicle  
141 for inspection to provide proof of lawful purchase of any major  
142 component parts not part of the vehicle when first sold by the  
143 manufacturer. The fee for such inspection shall be eighty-eight dollars.  
144 The inspection fee shall be in addition to regular registration fees. All  
145 moneys received from the fee imposed pursuant to this section and  
146 collected at an official emissions inspection station shall be deposited  
147 in a separate safety inspection account within the Emissions Inspection

148 Fund.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	14-164c(c)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	14-1(46)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	14-1
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	14-16a(b)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	14-62b(d)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	14-103a

**Statement of Purpose:**

To exempt composite motor vehicles from emissions testing and provide definitions for street rod, custom and composite motor vehicles.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. JANOWSKI, 56th Dist.

H.B. 5790